

NOTICE.

THE Underlying, having become LESSEE of the "HONGKONG" and "HONGKONG" and the business connected therewith, will conduct the same on his own account from this date.
B. CHATTERTON WILCOX.
Daily Press Office.
Hongkong, 1st January, 1878.

NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON & CO.
FAMILY AND DISPENSING
CHEMISTS.
By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor and his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS.
PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS.
DRUGGISTS' SUPPLIERS.
AND
AERATED WATER MAKERS.
SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED.
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

Notice.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. WATSON & CO., or
HONGKONG DISPENSARY. [17]

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.
Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and not to individuals.
Correspondents are requested to forward their names and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

The Daily Press.
HONGKONG, JUNE 11th, 1878.

The religious persecution which has broken out in the Hwei-chow prefecture of Kwangtung province is probably the worst of the kind. This class is the most inveterately hostile to the Christian religion and never loses a chance of vilifying or persecuting its professors. The convert to Christianity in China usually has a good deal to put up with, but it is not often that his enemies go the length of taking his life. In this case a great deal of most virulent animosity seems to have been displayed against the Christians of Hwei-chow, culminating in the murder of two of them. The leaders of the mob evidently knew that this act of violence would bring them into trouble, and they endeavored to conceal their crime. The district authorities may not feel disposed to take much pains to suppress the murders, but the matter has been brought to the notice of the British Consul at Swatow, who will call upon them to carry out the stipulations of the treaty and afford protection to the native Christians. Chinese VIII. of the Treaty of Tientsin runs as follows:—The Christian religion, as professed by Protestants or Roman Catholics, insulates the practice of virtue, and teaches man to do as he would be done by. Persons teaching it, or professing it, therefore, shall alike be entitled to the protection of the Chinese Authorities, nor shall any such peacefully pursuing their calling and not offending against the laws, be persecuted or interfered with. The local native officials will consequently be compelled to make full inquiry into this savage outrage and bring the murderers to justice. It is to be hoped, however, that the instigators of the persecution will not escape while the probably ignorant instruments are made to pay the penalty of their misdeeds. Two often in China the wrong parties are punished, especially when the offenders are able to distribute a few bribes in a judicious manner. The Chinese Government is rather apathetic in the matter of the persecution of native Christians, and it is to be feared they would fare badly for the presence of foreign Consuls in China and the protection afforded by them. The hostility to Christianity in China, we suspect, arises rather from an antipathy to foreigners by whom it was introduced than from religious intolerance.

From the Customs Returns of Trade at the Treaty Port it appears that, of the ports recently opened to foreign trade, Wuhu and Kiangchow (Hohow) are the only ones in which business is done to any appreciable extent. At Ichang and Pakhoi the returns for the first quarter of the present year are absolutely nil, there having been neither contraband clearances at either of these ports. The absence of trade from Pakhoi is explained by the existence of a powerful combination of the wealthier traders of the port, who are also large junk-owners, and who, in order to protect their vested interests, refuse to do business with anyone who ships goods by foreign steamers. It is said that the trade to and from the port is sufficient to furnish cargoes to two small steamers per week, but at present it is monopolized by the junks. At Hohow during the three months ending January the cleared the port and from Hongkong and Hainan. Of sailing vessels only one entered from Bangkok, and none cleared. Of the traffic arriving by the steamers a very considerable portion is of course destined for the country lying between the Coast and the West River, for which Pakhoi is the natural distributing centre, and the expense and delay of transshipment by junk rendered necessary by the conservative policy of the Pakhoi traders and junk owners are much to be regretted. The present condition of things, however, cannot last very long, and ultimately steam must assert its supremacy over the antiquated junk. The tonnage entering the port of Hohow during the quarter was 9,239, as compared with 9,550 in the corresponding quarter of last year, a very satisfactory increase. At Wenchow two steamers entered and cleared and two sailing vessels. At Wuhu 132 steamers entered and cleared the port, of which eighty were river steamers representing a tonnage of 70,972, and 61 Chinese-owned steamers representing a tonnage of 2,825. The increase in the tonnage of the port generally may be regarded as satisfactory.

The Shanghai, Captain William B. Grant, left Singapore on the 6th instant for this port.

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The Band and Pipes of the 74th Highlanders will perform on the Parade Ground to-night commencing at nine p.m. The following is the programme:—

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POST-OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS

A MAIL WILL CLOSE

For Amoy, Taiwan, and Tamsui.—Per *Taiwan*, to-day, the 11th inst., at 11.30 A.M.
For Bangkok.—Per *Danube*, to-day, the 11th instant, at 2.30 P.M.
For Shanghai.—Per *Yangtze*, to-day, the 11th instant, at 3.30 P.M.
For Saigon.—Per *Quarta*, to-day, the 11th instant, at 5 P.M.
For Labuan.—To-day, the 11th instant.

5 P.M.
For Swatow, Amoy, and Foochow.—*P. Kungtung*, to-morrow, the 12th instant, 11.30 A.M.
For Keelang and Foochow.—*Per Caldera*, Thursday, the 13th instant, at 11.30 A.M.
For Yokohama and Higo.—*Per Mikado*, Thursday, the 13th instant, at 11.30 A.M.
For Cocktown, Sydney, and Melbourne.—*P. Ocean*, to-morrow, the 13th instant, at 11.30 A.M.

MAILS BY THE ENGLISH PACKET
The English Contract Packet "THIBET" will be despatched with the Mails for Europe &c., on SATURDAY, the 15th instant.

The following will be the hours of closing to
Mails, &c. —
FRIDAY, 14th instant,
5 P.M., Money Order Office closes.
6 P.M., Post Office closes except the NIGHT BOX
which remains open all night.
SATURDAY, 15th instant,
7 A.M., Post Office opens for sale of Stamp
Registry of Letters, and Posting of all correspondence.

10 A.M., Post Office closes except for Late Letters. Registry of Letters ceases.
10.15 A.M., Letters may be posted on payment of a Late Fee of 18 cents extra Postage, until.
11 A.M., when the Post Office CLOSES entirely.
11.30 A.M., Letters (but Letters only) addressed to the United Kingdom *via* Brindisi, or Singapore, may be posted on board the Pack with Late Fee of 48 cents extra postage, until

11.50 A.M., when the Mail is finally closed.

MAILS BY THE FRENCH PACKET.
The French Contract Packet "YANGTSE" will be despatched from Hongkong on SATURDAY, the 22nd June, with Mails to and through the United Kingdom and Europe via Marseilles; to Saigon, Singapore, Batavia, Galle, Pondicherry, Madras, Calcutta, Bombay.

Aden, Suez, and Alexandria.
The following will be the hours of CLOSING
the Mails, &c. —
FRIDAY, 21st instant.
5 P.M., Money Order Office closes. Post Office
closes except the NIGHT BOX, which remains
open all night.
SATURDAY, 22nd instant,
7 A.M., Post Office opens for sale of Stamp
Books, &c.

10 A.M., Registry of Letters ceases.
11 A.M., Post Office closes except for Late Letters.
11.10 A.M., Letters (but Letters only) may be posted on payment of a Late Fee of 18 cents extra postage, until
11.30 A.M., when the Post Office CLOSES.

To provide means of remitting small sums of money to or from this Colony and between the Ports of China and Japan, the Postmaster and Agents of this Office will in future be allowed (but not required) to purchase Hongkong Postage Stamps from foreign residents.

Between Hongkong and Shanghai, or Hongkong and Yokohama, however in either direction

Money-Orders must be used. The Stamps tendered for sale must not exceed \$25 in value, must be perfectly clear, good condition, and in strips of at least two go separate Stamps will be purchased. Two must be presented personally or accompanied by a note. Letters containing Stamps should be registered, and the Stamps should be secured from

COMMUNICATION WITH BATAVIA.
The Netherlands India Packets leave Singapore fortnightly, and are fitted to the arrival of the outward P. & O. Mail from Europe.
The French Packets for Batavia wait Singapore for the Packet from China, and fortnightly.
It follows that to forward Correspondence

to Batavia with the least delay, the following are the best opportunities:—

In the S.W. Monsoon.	The English Mail. The French Mail.
In the N.E. Monsoon.	A Private Steamer a few days before English Mail. The French Mail.

Many boxes of letters are received at the Post Office not sealed, that is to say, the boxes fastened with sealing wax, but there is no impression of a seal.

The attention of boxholders is called to the necessity of carefully sealing such boxes with some recognisable seal, and of sending a check book or receipt with them. The omission

the latter precaution leaves a doubt as to whether the contents of the box ever reached the Post Office; the omission of the former, as whether part of them might not have been abstracted for the sake of the Postage Stamps.

The attention of owners, agents, and charterers of steamers is drawn to the provisions of the Post Office Ordinance, 1876, which comes in

Under the old Ordinance no notice was required of the departure of a vessel if not notified, nor of departures for Canton or Macao. Notice is now required of any departure, though with regard to sailing ships, the old rule will practically remain in force, that notice need not be sent unless asked for.

Section XXV. requires that the first notice be sent at least 24 hours before departure.

In the case of steamers plying regularly or fixed days, notice of any change in the day hour will be sufficient.

Stamped correspondence may still be sent board any vessel after the Mail is closed at the Post Office.

The Postmaster-General takes this opportunity of calling the attention of firms to the fact that any such words as Despatches will close at

A.M., added to the advertisement of a vessel as illegal. Consignees' letters are exempted by law from passing through the Post Office, but no person is allowed to make collection of such letters for transmission under a penalty of £1 per week during which the practice continued.

general understanding of what is a Pattern. It is a bona fide sample of goods which the sender has for sale, or of goods which he wishes to order. It is to consist of the smallest possible quantity compatible with showing what the goods are, and must have no intrinsic value. Most countries to which Hongkong forwards Correspondence having joined the General Postal Union or being probably about to do so

1. — No Letter or Packet, whether to be registered or unregistered, can be received for Postage, if it contains gold or silver money, jewels, precious articles, or anything that, as a general rule, is liable to Customs duties.

3.—The limits of weight allowed, are as follows:—
BOOKS AND PAPERS.—To British Offices, 5lb.
PATTERNS.—5lb. if without intrinsic value.
BOOKS AND PAPERS.—To the Continent, &c.
PATTERNS.—8 oz.
4.—The following articles cannot be sent by

Post at all.—Glass, Liquids, Gunpowder Matches, Candles, Soap, Indigo, Dye-stuffs, &c., whatever is dangerous to the Mail or offensive or injurious to persons dealing with them.

PARCELS.

The public is reminded that there is not much thing as Parcel Post to Europe. Much trouble and disappointment is caused by persistent attempts to send small valuable trifles.

through the Post. Fairs, Curios, Articles of Dress, Fancy Work, and similar presents are continually being refused, the senders having often spent more in postage than would have been paid the freight by steamer. No refund can be made on such parcels of the value of Stamps submitted before the nature of the contents are discovered.

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